

House Bill # 5525

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Patricia Smith and I have resided in White Lake Township for over 31 years.

As Ms. Spindler has stated the County Flea Market has existed for 40 years with some vendors there over 25 years.

Most of the vendors are seniors and disabled who use the money they make selling their items to help with their medicines and expenses. In these economic times with no cost of living increase to their social security for the next two years they need this Flea Market more than ever. Businesses are closing all over the state. The vendors who run their businesses at the Oakland County Flea Market are contributing to the economy of the State of Michigan even though it is on a small scale. We pay sales tax, income tax and property taxes.

The Oakland County Flea Market is clean, safe, and family oriented with a variety of items for sale for all ages.

We also would like this statute to be adopted for all the counties of Michigan so that seniors and others have the same opportunity we have had and hope to have again. We have had calls from seniors as far away as Escanaba wanting a county run Flea Market in their area. They want a place where they can sell their wares in a safe environment and not be subjected to stolen property, drugs and riff-raff.

In closing, we ask that you pass this statute as soon as possible and urge the Oakland County officials to re-open the Flea Market.

Thank you for your time and consideration.